

Answering Your Questions About:

Free Group Camping in Ontario Provincial Parks

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1 I UNDERSTAND THAT CERTAIN ORGANIZED GROUPS OF YOUNG PEOPLE CAN OBTAIN FREE GROUP CAMPING IN CERTAIN ONTARIO PROVINCIAL PARKS. IS THIS CORRECT?

Yes. Members of a religious, charitable, educational or other philanthropic organization 18 years and under accompanied by their supervisors, may be permitted to occupy free of charge a campsite in an area organized by the park superintendent for the purpose of group camping - providing such a site is available, and the request is made to the superintendent at least 2 weeks in advance.

2 ARE GROUP CAMPSITES AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCIAL PARKS?

No. Check listings in brochure "Ontario Provincial Parks" - available from your nearest park or office of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

3 WHERE DO I WRITE TO MAKE A RESERVATION FOR A GROUP CAMPSITE?

Write to the District Office. Addresses are listed in the Ontario Provincial Parks brochure. The letter should be on your organization's letterhead outlining the purpose of the visit, number of people involved and dates required. Give alternate dates if possible.

4 IS THERE A LIMIT ON THE LENGTH OF STAY?

Yes. The maximum is 23 days in a year, but in certain parks the limit may be reduced in order to give all eligible groups a fair chance of obtaining a site during the camping season.

5 ARE ANY OF THE GROUP CAMPSITES EQUIPPED WITH ELECTRICAL OUTLETS?

No.

6 WHAT FACILITIES ARE PROVIDED IN GROUP CAMPSITES?

Facilities tend to be minimal - firegrates, a water supply and toilets.

7 OUR MAIN GROUP WILL ARRIVE BY BUS, BUT SEVERAL OTHER MEMBERS WILL BE ARRIVING LATER BY CAR. ARE ALL OUR VEHICLES ALLOWED IN FREE OF CHARGE?

Yes, provided you advise the park superintendent ahead of time.

8 IS FIREWOOD SUPPLIED FREE OF CHARGE TO GROUP CAMPERS?

In many parks, firewood is supplied free of charge to all campers. However, in those parks that sell wood, group campers will probably be asked to pay the nominal fee.

9 ARE SWIMMING BEACHES PATROLLED BY LIFEGUARDS?

Only in a few provincial parks, and in those parks the beach patrols have a wide variety of duties and cannot possibly keep track of all swimmers all the time. Hours of supervision are posted - but group campers should arrange to have an adequate number of their own members to supervise swimming.

10 DO GROUP CAMPING AREAS HAVE ORGANIZED SPORTS FACILITIES SUCH AS BASEBALL DIAMONDS OR FOOTBALL FIELDS?

No.

11 ARE INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE FOR GROUP CAMPERS?

Yes. If you outline your group's interests in your letter to the District Office, they will try to accommodate your group in the regular interpretive program, or perhaps arrange a special program.



Ministry of
Natural
Resources

Hon. James A.C. Auld
Minister
Dr. J. K. Reynolds
Deputy Minister



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